

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY, DECEMBER 3, 1973

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WASHPOST FRONTPAGES CLOTURE FAILS BY 7 VOTES, ARTICLE SAYING SENATE IN FIRST REGULAR SUNDAY SESSION SINCE 1861 FAILED BY SEVEN VOTES TO CUT OFF FILIBUSTER AGAINST DEBT-CEILING BILL AND ATTACHED AMENDMENT TO FINANCE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS FROM U.S. TREASURY. POST ALSO HAS CLEAN AIR DELAY IS PROPOSED, WHITE HOUSE SEEKS FREEZE OF AUTO RULES. ALSO, SHULTZ WARNS U.S. OF FUEL PRICE RISE; NIXON PAID \$78,651 IN 1969-72 TAXES; EGYPT AND ISRAEL MAY RESUME TALKS; BEN GURION LIES IN STATE.

1A. NYTIMES FRONTPAGES TAX SHIFT WEIGHED TO INCREASE OIL AND CURB PROFITS, DEPLETION - ALLOWANCE USERS WOULD HAVE TO AID EFFORT TO EXPAND SUPPLIES, SHULTZ BACKING IDEA. TIMES ALSO HAS EGYPT HINTS SHE'LL BOYCOTT TALKS IF ISRAEL WON'T YIELD. ALSO, US EXPECTED TO PRESS ISRAELIS FOR CONCESSIONS; BEN GURION BIER VIEWED BY 200,000; NIXON 1969-72 TAX TOTALLED \$78,651.
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1B. WASHPOST INSIDE HAS SENATE-FINANCED POLL FINDS DISTRUST OF INSTITUTIONS; WATERGATE INDICTMENTS SEEN IN 1974; NIGERIA'S OIL GAINS NEW IMPORTANCE FOR U.S.; ARABS MAY LET

OIL VIA HOLLAND.

1C. NYTIMES INSIDE HAS QADDAFI REPORTED TO THREATEN EXPULSION OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS; ISRAEL AND SYRIA BATTLE ON THE HEIGHTS; 148 NATIONS JOINING UN PARLEY ON LAW OF SEA OPENING TODAY; RUMANIA FAVORS JOINT ENTERPRISES WITH U.S., CEAUSESCU ON EVE OF VISIT TO U.S. SEEN AIMING FOR CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE; NEW NIXON FINANCIAL REPORTS TO FACE CLOSE SCRUTINY BY CRITICS.

2. BEN GURION. WASHPOST, JERUSALEM, ROSENFELD REPORTS 10 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S POPULATION HAD PASSED BIER OF BEN GURION. VIPS HAD ALL PAID THEIR RESPECTS BEFORE THE GATES WERE OPENED TO PUBLIC, BUT SOME PUBLIC FIGURES MADE SECOND VISIT IN SLOW-MOVING FILES OF ORDINARY CITIZENS. BECAUSE ISRAEL STILL AT WAR THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL PROCESSION OR STATE FUNERAL, ONLY BRIEF SERVICE AT THE KNESSET BEFORE SMALL GROUP OF INVITED GUESTS. SHIRT-TAIL TO ARTICLE FROM NEWS DISPATCHES SAYS ARAB PRESS CALLS BEN GURION AGRESSOR.

2A. NYTIMES, JERUSALEM, SMITH REPORTS 200,000 PERSONS, BY OFFICIAL ESTIMATE, PAID MOURNFUL HOMAGE TO THEIR FIRST PREMIER WHOSE BODY LAY IN STATE THROUGHOUT THE DAY AT THE ENTRANCE TO PARLIAMENT. THE DAY AFTER HIS DEATH, BEN GURION DOMINATED ISRAEL WITH FILM CLIPS RUNNING FOR HOURS ON TELEVISION. CEREMONY AT PARLIAMENT WAS AS SIMPLE AND INFORMAL AS STATE OCCASION CAN BE.

3. MIDDLE EAST. WASHPOST, FROM NEWS DISPATCHES, REPORTS EGYPT AND ISRAEL APPEARED LAST NIGHT TO HAVE AGREED TO RESUME THEIR DEADLOCKED MILITARY TALKS AFTER MEETING SEPARATELY WITH GEN SIILASVUO, THE CHIEF OF U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN JERUSALEM LAST NIGHT SAID ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STAND BY FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS. SIILASVOU'S UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING WITH DAYAN YESTERDAY BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES CLASHED IN GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SHARPEST EXCHANGE ON THAT FRONT SINCE END OF OCTOBER WAR. ARTICLE SAYS ISREALI CABINET APPROVED SCHEDULED VISIT BY DAYAN TO U.S. THIS WEEK. COMMUNIQUE SAID HE WAS GOING ON FUND RAISING MISSION, BUT ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET SENIOR US OFFICIALS DURING WEEK-LONG STAY. INFORMED SOURCES SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY MEET SEC. KISSINGER ON ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE CONFERENCE PROPOSED FOR DECEMBER 18 IN GENEVA, AND WITH SCHLESINGER ON ISRAELI'S ARMS REQUESTS.

3A. NYTIMES, CAIRO, TANNER REPORTS EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS STRONGLY HINTED TODAY THAT EGYPT MIGHT REFUSE TO GO TO PEACE CONFERENCE

IN GENEVA IF ISRAEL FAILED TO CARRY OUT FIRST TROOP WITHDRAWAL BEFORE THEN. HINTS CAME AFTER SADAT CALLED ON U.S. AMBASSADOR EILTS AND VINOGRADOV OF SOVIET UNION. ACCORDING OFFICIAL SOURCES, SADAT URGED AMBASSADORS ACT TO OBTAIN ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTIONS. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAID NEW VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST BY KISSINGER WAS BEING DISCUSSED IN EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN MEETINGS.

3B. WASHPOST, CAIRO, DULLFORCE REPORTS SADAT WILL DECIDE WITHIN NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WHETHER OR NOT EGYPT WILL ATTEND MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA DECEMBER 18, AND DECISION DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON ACTIONS OF KISSINGER, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAID. UNLESS KISSINGER CAN PERSUADE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO DRAW ITS ARMY BACK FROM THE CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD, THERE IS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY SYRIA AND EGYPT WILL REFUSE TO GO TO CONFERENCE, OFFICIALS INDICATED. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED HARDENING IN EGYPT'S STAND TOWARD AMERICAN-BACKED PEACE MOVES. THEY SUGGESTED CONFIDENCE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SADAT AND KISSINGER ON NOVEMBER 7 HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY FAILURE TO EXECUTE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT FULLY. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND OTHERS INDICATED GROWING SUSPICION THAT EGYPT AND ARABS MAY ONCE AGAIN BE TRICKED BY U.S. AND ISRAELI. AL AKHBAR REPORTED KISSINGER WOULD VISIT EGYPT DECEMBER 13 FOR TALKS WITH SADAT AND FAHMI.

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3C. NYTIMES, GELB REPORTS FIRM CONSENSUS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED WITHIN ADMINISTRATION THAT US MUST PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS IN FORTHCOMING PEACE TALKS IN GENEVA, ACCORDING SEVERAL HIGH US OFFICIALS. SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS SAID FLATLY "WE ARE PREPARED TO LEAN ON ISRAEL FOR REASONABLE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT." NEVERTHELESS OFFICIAL AND OTHERS ADD MAJOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING US POLICY REMAIN UNANSWERED. STATE DEPARTMENT EXPERTS ARE SAID TO HAVE PREPARED PAPERS OUTLINING PEACE PACKAGE. ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF PAPERS NOT DISCLOSED THEY WERE DESCRIBED AS INCLUDING RETURN OF ALMOST ALL CAPTURED ARAB LANDS, CREATION OF DEMILITARIZED ZONES IN SINAI PENINSULA AND ON WEST BANK OF JORDAN RIVER AND COMPLICATED ARRANGEMENT FOR STATUS OF JERUSALEM, ALL UNDER NEGOTIATED INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES. INFORMED FOREIGN DIPLOMAT SAID PREMIER MIER HAD BEEN ASSURED BY KISSINGER AND NIXON THERE WOULD BE NO US-SOVIET PEACE PLAN AND NO SEPARATE US PLAN. SAME DIPLOMAT

INSISTED THAT SO FAR US "HAS NOT TWISTED ISRAELI ARMS AT ALL." REGARDING KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS TO MIER THAT THERE WOULD BE NO US PEACE PLAN, DIPLOMAT SAID SECRETARY HAD TO IMPART DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES.

SOURCES DESCRIBED PAST MEETINGS WITH MIER BY NIXON AND KISSINGER AS DEVOID OF THREATS. DIPLOMAT SAID NIXON AND KISSINGER ARE USED TO DEALING WITH DICTATORS IN CHINA AND RUSSIA WHO CAN MAKE DECISIONS ON SPOT. QUICK DECISIONS, HE SUGGESTED, WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING FROM ISRAEL.

4. ENERGY. WASHPOST, MILIUS REPORTS SHULTZ ON "MEET THE PRESS" TOLD NATION TO PREPARE FOR HIGHER FUEL PRICES AND SAID FUEL RATIONING MAY NOT BE WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE. SHULTZ SAID COST OF LIVING COUNCIL WILL TAKE STEPS THIS WEEK TO LET FUEL OIL PRICES RISE RELATIVE TO GASOLINE, BUT DECLINED TO SAY HOW HIGH HE THOUGHT FUEL PRICES WOULD HAVE TO GO BEFORE AMERICANS WOULD CUT BACK ON CONSUMPTION.

4A. WASHPOST, LOUIS HARRIS (POLL) REPORTS AMERICAN PEOPLE BY DECISIVE MARGINS ARE PARPARED NOT ONLY TO GO ALONG WITH DEMANDS PUT UPON THEM BY PRESIDENT IN ENERGY CRISIS, BUT ARE WILLING TO GO BEYOND CURRENT SACRIFICE IF UNCLASSIFIED

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CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

5. COMMENT. BEN GURION. WASHPOST SAYS FEW PUBLIC MEN HAVE EVER LIVED A LIFE OF PROPHETIC INTENSITY AND HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT OF BEN GURION. CERTAINLY NO MODERN FIGURE HAS BEEN OF MORE CENTRAL AND COMPREHENSIVE IMPORTANCE TO WHOLE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE. BEN GURION'S LIFE, HOWEVER, DID NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS OF ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF JEWISH STATE.

5A. NATO. NYTIMES SAYS CLOSER WEST EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN DEFENSE AS AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE BY BRANDT AND POMPIDOU WOULD RESULT IN MULTIPLICATION OF EFFECTIVENESS. BRITIAN'S ENTRY INTO COMMON MARKET HAS MADE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO DEFENSE COOPERATION SEEM FEASIBLE. WEST EUROPE'S FEELING OF IMPOTENCE IN MIDEAST CRISIS HAS GIVEN NEW IMPETUS TO LAGGING EFFORTS FOR POLITICAL UNION AND JOINT DEFENSE. USEFUL FIRST STEP TO OVERCOME OBSTRUCTIONISM OF GAULLISTS WOULD BE JOINT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WHICH MIGHT ALSO SPEED AGREEMENT ON TACTICAL DOCTRINE, JOINT TRAINING AND FRENCH RETURN TO UNIFIED COMMAND. IF THIS DOES HAPPEN, IT WILL BOTH REINFORCE NATO AND HASTEN

POLITICAL UNION AS FOUNDATION OF WESTERN EUROPE'S FUTURE STABILITY.

5B. GREECE. NYTIMES SAYS US SHOULD REMAIN AS ALOOF AS ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES FROM NEW GREEK REGIME BY PROHIBITING ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AS PROPOSED BY SENATORS PELL AND JACKSON, UNTIL ATHENS IS READY TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE; OR AT LEAST BY SHELIVING

INDEFINITELY US PLANS FOR EXPANDING NAVY'S HOME-PORTING
PROGRAM IN ATHENS.

5C. PRESIDENCY. WASHPOST, JOSEPH ALSOP SAYS IT BEGINS
TO SEEM MORE AND MORE POSSIBLE THAT NIXON WILL RESIGN.
THERE WILL BE VICE PRESIDENT TO STEP INTO PRESIDENT'S
SHOES, AND FORCES PUSHING NIXON TOWARD RESIGNATION
ARE GROWING STRONGER AND STRONGER. BECAUSE NIXON IS
GENUINELY PATRIOTIC MAN, IT SEEMS MORE POSSIBLE HE WILL
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NOT WISH TO PUT COUNTRY THROUGH TWO MORE YEARS OF SAME
KIND OF WRINGER COUNTRY IS IN TODAY. KISSINGER

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